

College Ambition Program (CAP)

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www.collegeambition.org

The College Ambition Program (CAP) is an MSU research study designed to promote postsecondary school attendance and completion by implementing a series of research-based activities in the high school.

This is a **school-wide initiative** with the hope of reaching the staff, administration, district and community. We want the students to succeed, which is why we place special emphasis on the skills and industries that are most needed now and in the future. Therefore CAP is aimed at encouraging and preparing students to pursue college and professional careers in *Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)*.

There are a number of reasons why students should be involved with CAP. Here are a few:

- CAP reinforces the message that postsecondary attendance is an attainable goal for all students.
- CAP offers activities to students that have been shown to increase college attendance and completion.
- CAP provides students with an opportunity to explore new college and career options in STEM fields.
- The CAP research study helps to further identify successful strategies and activities that promote college success.

Why choose the College Ambition Program (CAP)?

CAP provides:

- 1) Course Counseling and Advising
- 2) Tutoring and Mentoring
- 3) Financial Aid Planning
- 4) College Visits

The Power of the College Ambition Program (CAP)...

CAP provides resources and support to help high school students plan for and navigate the path to college. CAP is a whole-school intervention to promote a college-going culture where students visualize themselves going to college and their school administrators, teachers, and parents share those expectations.

College Ambition Program (CAP)

Guide to Climate and Culture

How Does Cap Work?

1) Course Counseling and Advising

Working closely with the counseling department, CAP mentors assist in identifying the courses needed to position students well for college admissions. CAP provides additional college activities, including workshops, visits and webinars, to increase the knowledge of college options and financial aid available to students.

2) Tutoring and Mentoring

The CAP site coordinator will work closely with undergraduate students from STEM programs to provide mentoring with the college application process and tutoring after-school. Supporting academic gaps and the development of soft skills necessary for successful transition to college helps to ensure that students have the opportunity to reach their college and career goals.

3) Financial Aid Planning

Working with students and their families, CAP provides support through the financial aid application process as well as understanding the financial awards, loans, and commitments that students may face.

4) College Visits

CAP provides (at no-cost to students) opportunities to visit a diverse set of college campuses every year to help them to visualize themselves as a college student and give them concrete strategies from institutions to help realize their goals.

*** For additional information see www.collegeambition.org**

Elements of Fidelity:

Work with school staff, counselors, and administrators to create a college-going culture within the school. Establish a CAP center and make sure the students and staff are aware of the location and the services offered (Course Counseling and Advising, Tutoring and Mentoring, College Visits, and Financial Aid Planning). Administer CAP Student Survey and other needs assessment tools– focus group protocols, structured interviews, and online student and staff surveys designed to identify the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities related to college preparedness and college-going culture in partner schools. Survey instruments are developed to measure students' levels of postsecondary ambitions, academic preparation for postsecondary education, postsecondary knowledge, school-wide college-going culture/social context, and the resources being used for the college search and selection process.